

DEVELOPMENT OF HALDIA-FARAKKA STRETCH OF GANGA

1371. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government so far, for the development of Haldia-Farakka stretch of Ganga (National Inland Waterways) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : The Inland Waterways Authority of India is taking necessary measures every year for the development and maintenance of navigable channel of minimum depth of 1.5 to 2.0 metres and width 45 metres by dredging and bandalling in critical stretches of the waterway from Haldia to Farakka. Channel marks are provided during the low water season for the guidance of vessels along the navigation channel. Terminal facilities have been provided at Haldia, Calcutta, Berhampur, Pakur and Farakka.

[*Translation*]

FACILITIES TO DEPENDENTS OF OFFICERS DYING IN HARNESS

1372. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities provided to the dependents of those officers/employees of Army who die in harness;

(b) whether there is any provision to provide suitable employment to the dependent members of the families of the deceased;

(c) if so, the procedure prescribed in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Facilities provided to the dependents of officers and men (Other Ranks) of Army who die in harness include immediate financial assistance, ordinary family pension, gratuity, retention of accommodation for a specified period, canteen and medical facilities.

In case of death in operations, the dependents of such personnel are entitled to generalised family pension equal to last pay drawn and in case of death attributable to military service they are entitled to Special Family Pension. Their children are entitled to educational facilities such as payment of fees, hostel charges etc. War widows are entitled to 75% concession in rail fares for travel in second class and 50% concession in domestic air travel.

Under the Army Group Insurance Scheme (AGI) officers are entitled to a sum of Rs. 3.50 lakhs and JCO/ ORs to a sum of Rs. 1.50 lakhs. Certain additional facilities like financial assistance for the marriage of daughter(s), construction/ repair of house and interest subsidy on loan for house building are also provided through the Zila Sainik Boards/Rajya Sainik Boards/Kendriya Sainik Board on as required basis, depending on the financial condition of each family. Special vocational training centres have been opened at various places for training the widows and dependents of the deceased personnel with a view to equip them for gainful employment, self-employment. Provision has also been made for imparting various types of training to widows/dependents, alongwith the ex-Servicemen under the resettlement training schemes for ex-Servicemen conducted by the Zila Sainik Boards/Rajya Sainik Boards.

All the schemes for the self-employment of ex-Servicemen are also open to the widows and dependents of the deceased personnel.

(b) Provisions regarding suitable employment of the dependent members of the families of the deceased personnel are as under :—

(i) Widow upto one dependent can apply for appointment on compassionate grounds.

(ii) In case of the personnel killed in action or where the death is attributable to military service, upto two dependents of the deceased, including war widows, are entitled to Priority-II (a) for the purposes of employment against Group 'C' and 'D' posts